GLOBAL CITIZENS CHANGING THE WORLD

This book tells a story: an inspiring tale of Jews crossing borders to help people in need. A powerful story of Jewish individuals and organizations in fields which embody the concepts of “tikkun olam” (repairing the world) and “gemilut hasadim” (acts of loving kindness).

In Haiti, they are providing urgent medical care; in Kenya, they are training farmers to maximize yields; in India, they are teaching children to read; and in Mexico, they are rescuing people from the ruins of an explosion. These are but a few examples of global Jewish service. Around the world, Jewish and Israeli organizations are pursuing meaningful ways to relieve the suffering of strangers without prejudice or pretension.

They are working to make life better for the world’s most vulnerable populations, inspiring a new generation of Jewish global citizens in the process. This book shines a spotlight on their work so others too can be inspired to join and support this community of global citizens, ready and willing to improve the world together.

THE VISION BEHIND OLAM AND THIS BOOK

In 2014, our three foundations - the Alliance for Global Good, Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, and Pears Foundation - decided to embark upon a new enterprise to promote stronger Jewish engagement in global humanitarian issues. After exploring our vision and values, we joined forces to launch a cooperative venture in order to “raise the tide for all ships” who are working to promote global Jewish service. OLAM and this book are a manifestation of our recognition that collaboration will allow us as the Jewish people to better fulfill our moral obligation to care for the stranger and repair the world.

WHAT’S INSIDE

This book offers an overview of a highly diverse set of organizations working in the fields we consider to fit under the umbrella term “global Jewish service” - engaging with and supporting vulnerable communities in need around the world. What they share is the fact that they are Jewish and Israeli actors who are deeply committed to fulfilling the moral imperative to fix our broken world. OLAM exists to support and amplify their efforts, and this book exists to share their stories in order to inspire, encourage, and motivate others to become engaged in global Jewish service efforts – as volunteers, practitioners, or funders.

Because of our emphasis on global service, responsibility and citizenship, we have specifically focused on work benefiting non-Jewish communities in need. We have referred to programs as “Jewish” in this book if they self-identify as such, whether or not they incorporate Jewish content or teaching. Israel-based programs were included even if they did not expressly self-identify as Jewish since they tend to include primarily Jewish personnel and volunteers.

This publication is not intended to be an endorsement of the organizations mentioned in this book nor to provide an objective assessment of their work.

Field efforts do not exist in a vacuum. It takes an entire ecosystem to support and sustain the work of these organizations. Funding, training programs, community building, and educational work are all an integral part of the field. While we could not fully cover all aspects of the ecosystem, we have included a brief overview of some of the critical links in the chain.

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DEFINING GLOBAL JEWISH SERVICE

“Global Jewish service” is by no means easily defined. The term might be said to include volunteering and service learning, international development, and social justice advocacy on behalf of the world’s most vulnerable populations. In the context of OLAM’s focus and activities, we are defining “global Jewish service” in its broadest sense to include all of the above activities when conducted in a cross-border context. In addition, there are some who engage in study or short-term service learning trips and who, upon their return, support the field through activism, journalism, and awareness raising efforts. We view their efforts as an important element of the ecosystem comprising the global Jewish service field. Put succinctly, in our view, “global Jewish service” may be defined as “Jews living out their values by investing time and energy to help vulnerable people in a country other than their own.”

THE BROADER CONTEXT

Jews engaged in global service work contribute to the wider context of international efforts to improve the lot of the world’s most vulnerable. Internationally, these efforts typically fall within two categories: development assistance and humanitarian relief.

Roughly speaking, international development assistance refers to organized cross-border work aimed at helping vulnerable communities address long-term socio-economic issues. The term is broad enough to capture everything from vocational training and education to technical assistance in agriculture and economic planning. At its core, international development includes three elements:

- The work crosses borders (as opposed to the far more extensive work at the local level);
- It aims to address long-term problems (as opposed to providing relief assistance); and
- It seeks to benefit entire communities or countries (as opposed to, say, giving up coffee to sponsor a child’s education or buying a poor farmer a cow).

Of course, “development” is typically the purview of local governments and local communities, and nearly all experienced development organizations recognize the importance of “local ownership” of programs. Cross-border assistance is designed to bolster and enhance, not replace, local efforts and aims to bring expertise, know-how, and materials that local communities otherwise cannot access. International development work is almost invariably conducted in cooperation with local partners.

Humanitarian relief is assistance given in response to humanitarian crises, such as natural disasters or wars. Unlike development aid, which seeks to address long-term socio-economic challenges, relief work is focused on short-term assistance – to save lives, alleviate suffering, and maintain human dignity. Search-and-rescue is a well-known example of such assistance, but is by far not the only form. Material assistance, medical and psycho-social services, education, and shelter are some other leading forms of relief aid.

A LIGHT UNTO THE NATIONS

Jewish involvement in these fields is in no way new. For decades, Jews have been active in all of these efforts, both through Jewish and Israeli organizations and as practitioners, funders, and volunteers of non-Jewish entities in the field. What IS new, however, is the increasing number of organizations and projects that identify as Jewish or Israeli performing this work across the globe. More than half of the organizations we feature in this book were founded in the last 10 years and nearly a third in the past five years alone. Why are Jews engaging in these efforts? As one might expect, their motivations are varied and diverse:

- Some are inspired by Jewish values of tikkun olam and the prescription to be a light unto the nations.
- Others are grounded in universal concepts of global citizenship and the increasing inter-dependency and interconnectedness of the world. Still others seek to enhance the global reputation of Israel or the Jewish people. And some are looking to expand their horizons in terms of professional skills, cross-cultural awareness, or leadership development.

Given this range of motivations, it is no surprise that the programs are so different in form and focus. Some work through trained professional staff to impart highly technical knowledge to improve wellbeing and economic development. Others engage young adults, offering volunteer experiences in impoverished countries grounded in Jewish learning and community building. The rich diversity of programs is a natural consequence of the diverse approaches of participants and organizers.
Many Jewish practitioners are involved in development and relief through the organizations profiled in this book. However, a far larger number work in the field outside of the Jewish context, through NGOs, international NGOs, bilateral aid foundations, and international organizations. Some might relocate to developing countries to work directly for and with local communities or governments. In the minds of most of these practitioners, their work is a professional or humanitarian pursuit and not a specific reflection of their Jewish heritage.

Practitioners tend to focus on a particular skill set. “International development” is not so much a job title as an umbrella term that provides context for the many jobs a person might perform – Public Health Manager; Sanitation Engineer; Program Evaluator; Financial Analyst; Education Systems Specialist; or Team Leader, to name just a few. The same is true for the humanitarian relief sector. Jews in the field are largely “unnetworked” – often encountering each other accidentally. Many universities have alumni networks of graduates working in international development who provide some guidance or open doors for other alumni looking for work in development agencies. No parallel wide-scale network of practitioners exists to help Jews seeking to break into the field connect with other Jews.

Jews are involved in international development and humanitarian relief as practitioners, volunteers, funders, and academics. Nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) are not the only forum for their efforts. Some practitioners work for multi-lateral and government agencies. Some work for for-profit companies that design products with the express aim of solving “global challenges.” Others work for branches of the State of Israel that provide foreign assistance as a representative of the Jewish state. In this section, we briefly describe these different categories of involvement.

LEADING RESOURCES

General:
Devex is a leading website featuring jobs in international development. Its job board showcases a wide range of jobs in the field. ([www.devex.com](http://www.devex.com))

Relief Web – Though primarily a highly trusted resource for information about humanitarian crises and disaster, the site also features a job board with many job opportunities in humanitarian relief around the world. ([http://reliefweb.int/jobs](http://reliefweb.int/jobs))


Jewish Resources:
SID Israel has periodic career events for Israelis interested in learning more about the field. Its capacity building director also provides advice on resume-building, networking, and skill sets for people trying to break into the field. ([www.sid-israel.org](http://www.sid-israel.org))
Volunteering is often regarded as an important stepping stone to a career in international development, providing an opportunity to build skills, experience, and contacts. It is often also a highly rewarding experience in and of itself. Every year, hundreds of thousands of volunteers travel abroad seeking opportunities to make an impact, broaden their horizons, and have life-altering experiences.

Volunteers in these fields typically pursue one of two options:

- Placements through VSAs (Volunteer Sending Agencies) - There are literally hundreds of VSAs offering long- and short-term placements for veteran professionals and young adults alike. The United Kingdom’s VSO and the United States’ Peace Corps are the most well-known examples of long-term placement agencies. In addition, many tour operators offer opportunities to combine cross-border volunteering with a holiday experience (so-called ‘voluntourism’) at sites across the globe.

- Placements through NGOs located overseas - Some volunteers opt for do-it-yourself placements with grassroots organizations in the developing world. Volunteers might make advance arrangements to volunteer or might just drop in while backpacking in a foreign country.

Jews looking to volunteer might take advantage of these same options. While many Jews engaged in cross-border volunteering do so outside of the Jewish context, some Jews specifically seek out Jewish VSAs like the ones profiled in this book. For some, this is an expression of a desire to volunteer in a Jewish context or with fellow Jews. Other Jews wind up volunteering through Jewish or Israeli NGOs simply because of prior professional or personal relationships. Volunteerism operators based in Israel also provide organized volunteering opportunities abroad together with fellow Jews.

Volunteers play an extensive role in the work of Jewish NGOs in the field. Close to 90 percent of the organizations surveyed rely on volunteers for some portion of their overseas work. And one-third reported more than 50 volunteers directly involved in their overseas work every year.

Some of these programs view volunteers as a way of supplementing their labor force, to overcome budget constraints and maximize impact. For others, the volunteers are themselves the center of their programming, which aims to build character or a sense of commitment and community among participants. The former is more likely to focus on career professionals with specific skills sets while the latter might offer opportunities to skilled and unskilled volunteers alike. Many volunteer-centered programs incorporate Jewish learning as part of the volunteer experience, often referring to their programs as “service learning programs.”

Leading Volunteer Resources:

General:


Idealist.org has been providing online information for the past twenty years about careers, internships, and volunteering opportunities through non-profit organizations. Idealist’s International Volunteerism Resource Center provides a wealth of information about cross-border volunteering. Their bulletin board posts a wide array of opportunities with organizations around the world, including links to many relevant resources and agencies. (http://www.idealist.org/info/lntVolunteer)

Omprakash offers an interesting middle ground model between self-placement and structured volunteer programs. The organization fundraises and posts volunteer positions for more than 100 pre-vetted grassroots partner organizations across the world. For a modest fee, the organization also provides pre-departure training to prepare volunteers for their stint overseas as well as mentorship. (www.omprakash.org)

Comhlamh the Irish Association of Development Workers and Volunteers, developed a well-respected volunteer charter that outlines principles for responsible international volunteering. The charter makes essential reading for people going to volunteer overseas in developing countries. (http://issuu.com/comhlamh/docs/volunteer-charter)

Jewish Resources:

Repair the World is a US-based organization that works to inspire American Jews to volunteer time and effort to serve those in need. The organization has an online portal of opportunities and practices in Jewish service-learning and volunteerism. While not focused specifically on cross-border volunteering, the site includes many useful resources about both local and international volunteering in a Jewish context and partners with other leading Jewish organizations to promote Jewish engagement in the field. (www.repairtheworld.org)

This Book! The profiles at the end of this book are a veritable goldmine of opportunities for volunteering in the cross-border context for skilled and unskilled volunteers alike. We hope it will serve as a go-to resource for Jews interested in learning more about international volunteering in a Jewish context. In the coming year, we aim to develop more resources and materials that will be available online at www.olamtogether.org.
ADVOCATES

Contributing to international development doesn’t necessarily involve crossing borders. Many organizations out there are looking to make an impact through global justice advocacy from within their own countries. Global justice advocates might speak out for better policies of their countries vis-à-vis developing countries — such as trade and aid policies. Or they might petition their own governments to put pressure on developing countries to correct their own injustices — such as the exclusion of women from public life or the persecution of minorities. Because wealthy countries wield considerable influence in developing countries, global justice advocates might have a significant impact through advocacy efforts such as these.

Leading organizations engaged in global advocacy on broad-based issues include ONE, an international organization campaigning to end extreme poverty, and prominent international human rights organizations such as Amnesty International. There are also an ever-growing number of advocacy organizations, operating within particular niches — from religious freedom to refugee rights to protection of endangered species. At times, these organizations directly petition governments in the developing world to improve their own policies. Other times, they petition their own governments to wield their influence in the developing world to advance these causes.

Among Jewish organizations, American Jewish World Service (AJWS) has been at the forefront of global justice advocacy efforts, at home and abroad. AJWS’ Global Justice Fellowship trains about 75 opinion leaders in Washington, D.C., where they deepen their knowledge of critical global issues and advocate on Capitol Hill to create a just and equitable South Africa.

FUNDERS

Funding is the lifeblood of international development and humanitarian relief work. Funding for the field comes primarily from national government contributions (so-called “Official Development Assistance”), remittances, and private investments. However, there is a growing interest in the role of philanthropic funding in international development — especially in light of government funding cutbacks related to the global financial crisis. Recent research suggests the role of philanthropic funding is growing and will take on an increasingly important role in the years to come. Not surprisingly, the situation is quite similar in the humanitarian relief sphere. How are donors contributing to these fields? Jewish and non-Jewish private donors give financial support to these fields in four central ways:

- Private donors finance sectarian and non-sectarian NGOs working in the humanitarian relief and international development spheres. NGOs are the main recipients of private funding, relying on voluntary contributions to fund efforts. Established development NGOs like MSF (aka Doctors without Borders) and Oxfam are particularly successful at mobilizing private funding.

- Some donors select organizations and individuals based in the developing world to support directly. This model works well for some larger donors (such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Ford Foundation, or the Wellcome Trust) and smaller donors might contribute to these larger foundations to help amplify their work.

- Philanthropists lacking the wherewithal to vet recipients in the developing world might support the work of high-profile organizations (such as the United Missionaries of Charities, famously established by Mother Teresa) or of pre-vetted organizations and projects recommended by established websites (such as Kivi and MYC4).

- Finally, some private donors make contributions to governmental and multi-lateral institutions. For the most part, this involves contributions to public-private development partnerships with a highly specialized mandate such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS Tuberculosis and Malaria.

WORKING WITH REFUGEES AND INDIGENOUS POPULATIONS

Sometimes the most vulnerable populations are in your own backyard. Refugees escaping war-torn lands or extreme persecution are present in countries all around the world. Several Jewish organizations provide assistance to these refugee communities through a range of programs. HIAS (originally the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society) famously provides refugee assistance both within the US and in more than 100 countries across the globe. Stand Up Australia provides capacity-building and empowerment to refugees in Australia from Darfur and the Nuba Mountains. Within Israel, a host of organizations are engaged in these efforts including ASSAF, the Hotline for Migrant Workers, Kav LaOved, Magen David Adom, Hagar and Miriam, Mesila, and Physicians for Human Rights.

Some Jewish organizations work to assist indigenous communities who often face similar levels of socio-economic hardship and marginalization to those of refugees. Ve’Ahavta in Canada has a Jewish-Aboriginal initiative which seeks out opportunities for partnership with indigenous Canadian communities, especially in the areas of health and education. In Australia, Stand Up works in several remote aboriginal communities on a range of youth-oriented programming. Rene Cassin, a Jewish human rights organization in the UK, advocates for the gypsy and traveler community and runs advocacy training programs for young Jewish lawyers. In addition, the Mensch Network provides a network for South African Jews working to create a just and equitable South Africa through a variety of social change projects, organizations, and enterprises.

Mobilizing Jewish Funding for Development and Relief

Several Jewish organizations are active in raising funds from the Jewish community to fund development and humanitarian relief. For 30 years, AJWS has been supporting grassroots and global human rights organizations in Africa, Asia, and the Americas, often responding to disasters and humanitarian crises as well. The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee’s (JDC) International Development Program (IDP) shares a long legacy of implementing non-sectarian, international development, and humanitarian relief efforts in the developing world.

During humanitarian crises, such as earthquakes or tsunamis, many other Jewish organizations join the ranks — issuing emergency appeals to their own members and communities. These include synagogues, Hillels, Federations, as well as non-profit organizations with a specific interest in this field such as Stand Up (an Australian organization working to promote social justice action and global consciousness within the Jewish community) and Ve’Ahavta (a Canadian organization dedicated to poverty alleviation in Canada and abroad). JDC serves as the secretariat for the Jewish Coalition for Disaster Relief (JCDR), a coalition of about 50 Jewish organizations, which coordinates some of these fundraising efforts. Some of JCDR’s largest contributors, including World Jewish Relief, JDC, World ORT, and the Jewish Federations of North America, raise and distribute funds through other channels as well. Funds raised are sometimes directed to work by Jewish agents; other times they are donated to non-Jewish humanitarian relief entities.

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FUNDERS, CONTINUED

WHY DO SOME DONORS PREFER TO FUND JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS?

Donors recognize an opportunity to simultaneously address critical needs while also strengthening Jewish identity and connectivity.

Donors view Jewish organizations as simultaneously advancing both global humanitarian causes and improving the reputation of Israel and the Jewish people internationally.

Jewish organizations inspire a higher level of trust that funds will be used responsibly and appropriately, either because of personal relationships or because of the Jewish connection.

Donors have a profound esteem for the expertise of specific organizations and individuals in their particular fields.

By giving to Jewish agents, donors can encourage and support Jewish involvement in the field.

When it comes down to it, Jewish donors looking to support international development and humanitarian relief have a wide range of choices about where to put their dollars. Yet some of them consistently prefer to fund work conducted by Jewish organizations and actors. We’ve counted five main reasons that this is the case:

1. Donors recognize an opportunity to simultaneously address critical needs while also strengthening Jewish identity and connectivity.

2. Donors view Jewish organizations as simultaneously advancing both global humanitarian causes and improving the reputation of Israel and the Jewish people internationally.

3. Jewish organizations inspire a higher level of trust that funds will be used responsibly and appropriately, either because of personal relationships or because of the Jewish connection.

4. Donors have a profound esteem for the expertise of specific organizations and individuals in their particular fields.

5. By giving to Jewish agents, donors can encourage and support Jewish involvement in the field.

TOTAL PHILANTHROPIC CONTRIBUTIONS FOR HUMANITARIAN CRISSES BY TYPE OF RECIPIENT


- UN
- Red Cross
- NGOs

These contributions, while encouraging, should not be overstated. Most foundations and private philanthropic donors still focus on giving at a local or national level.

A 2005 World Bank review estimated that international giving of US-based foundations represents only about 10 percent of total giving. ⁸
PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

Private enterprise is an essential driver of economic growth. For-profit enterprises play a role in sustainable international development not only by generating jobs and tax revenues but also by producing goods and services that meet basic needs and enable households and businesses to function efficiently. By offering products that meet the acute needs of these markets, they seek to score a “double bottom line” – financial profits and positive social impact. A small but growing number of Jewish and Israeli for-profit companies are involved in these efforts, designing products specifically with developing world markets in mind.

Some for-profit companies also contribute to international humanitarian causes as part of their “corporate social responsibility” programs. At times, this simply involves donating a small portion of profits to these causes. Increasingly, however, companies are exploring creative models of corporate giving to advance for-profit and humanitarian interests simultaneously - as an integral part of their business models in developing world markets. A far smaller number are actively engaged in voluntary service through programs such as VSO’s newly established “business volunteering hub” which provides short-term cross-border volunteering opportunities for business professionals from for-profit companies.

CHARTING A COURSE FOR ISRAELI PARTICIPATION IN THE FIELD: TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

A vibrant community of students and professionals is exploring ways for Israel to leverage its strengths as the “Start-Up Nation” to play a transformative role in international development. The Pears Program for Global Innovation at Tel Aviv University has been working to increase Israel’s role as a leading provider of solutions for the developing world in collaboration with government, academia, and the private sector. The Program also houses the IsraelDev Community, a professional network committed to harnessing Israeli innovation to address critical barriers to international development. The Israeli branches of Engineers Without Borders are involved in similar efforts, both together with IsraelDev and the Pears Program and through their own independent programming. These dynamic organizations are breaking new ground and charting a course to position Israel as a force for change in the international development field.

The ID² Gathering - a product of the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation Connection Points Program - helps catalyze these efforts. This exclusive 3-day annual workshop empowers young innovators and entrepreneurs to use their talents to meet urgent and pressing needs in developing countries. In addition, several competitions and prizes are looking to give extra incentive and credit for Jewish contributions to global assistance. Grand Challenges Israel and the Pears Challenge encourage Israeli entrepreneurs to develop innovative technologies to solve global challenges in a competitive yet supportive framework.

FROM HEALTH TO HORTICULTURE: JEWISH COMPANIES IN DEVELOPING MARKETS

What type of Jewish-owned companies are designing and marketing products for the developing world? Not surprisingly, they’re a fairly diverse group. Some, like Netafim (a world-renowned leader in drip irrigation), are veteran companies with decades of experience in their fields. Others are new and dynamic, such as VascoDe (an Israeli start-up with a unique platform which enables mass market users in the developing world to connect to the digital world at affordable prices). For some of these companies, marketing to the developing world is strictly business. Others view themselves as “values-driven” social enterprises. Circ MedTech (a healthcare solutions company marketing a non-surgical circumcision device linked to reducing HIV) calls the global fight against HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases its “primary goal.” Gigawatt Global (an Israeli company building solar fields to “harvest” solar energy in East Africa) goes one step further, calling itself a “for-profit company with a non-profit soul.”

ISRAELI GOVERNMENT

AID FROM THE JEWISH STATE

Developed countries around the world contribute to international development, and Israel is no exception. To be sure, the country is small and its aid levels are low in relation to its size. But compared to most private Jewish donors, Israel’s contributions to the field are tremendous.

Israel’s foreign assistance comes to expression in several ways. Like other developed countries, Israel contributes to multilateral institutions and funds. The Home Front Command and the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) Medical Corps also often send delegations (of reserve and active duty soldiers) overseas in times of humanitarian crisis, usually for search-and-rescue missions or to provide medical assistance.

MASHAV - the international cooperation and assistance arm of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs – is responsible for the design, coordination, and implementation of the State of Israel’s development diplomacy. MASHAV is directly involved in overseas fieldwork in four ways:

01 MASHAV employees in embassies abroad work to promote development cooperation;

02 MASHAV sends experts abroad to conduct trainings;

03 Israeli experts are sent on short-term and long-term development missions; and

04 MASHAV deploys emergency assistance in the form of supplies (and occasionally medical assistance) in times of humanitarian crisis.

Since its establishment, MASHAV has trained close to 270,000 professionals from approximately 122 countries, both in Israel and abroad, and has implemented many projects in developing countries. Mashav training courses are conducted through its three implementing partners (CINADCO, Mount Carmel Training Center, and the Aharon Ofri International Training Center) and through a variety of affiliates to whom it outsources work such as the Weitz Center for Development Studies. Despite these impressive efforts, MASHAV is highly restricted by the size of its budget.

In addition to the Foreign Ministry, most other Israeli government ministries have departments for international relations which facilitate some (usually modest) projects with developing countries as part of their larger mandate.
ACADEMIC EDUCATION & TRAINING

Professional training is a must for people who wish to engage in these fields. Sending untrained teams to the field could easily cause more harm than good.

There is more than one way to obtain training. Many development professionals never receive a development-related degree at all. Instead, they are trained in a particular field of expertise (social work, medicine, etc.) and then put their skills to expression in the development or relief context. However, an increasing number of institutions have started offering specific training for cross-border work. In some cases, the training involves a comprehensive degree in the field, such as the Heller School Graduate Programs in Sustainable International Development at Brandeis University. Other times, the training is supplemental to a degree and might be more accurately referred to as a “concentration,” a “specialization,” or a “certificate.”

Professional training is offered at non-academic institutions as well. Websites targeting development and relief practitioners are constantly displaying advertisements from any number of training centers offering courses in everything from “Monitoring and Evaluation” to “Water and Sanitation.” RedR is one of the most famous — providing training courses to thousands of humanitarian aid workers through its 7 training sites across the globe.

Education is not only about professional training. It’s about raising awareness, consciousness, and sensitivity.

ISRAELI TRAINING CENTERS FOR DEVELOPMENT & RELIEF WORK

Several universities in Israel offer programs preparing students for a career in international development and humanitarian relief. Israeli institutions of higher learning offer some programs of this type. It’s a bit misleading to call any of these programs “Jewish” since they are open to Jews and non-Jews alike and often work hard to attract international students. And the curriculum has no particularly Jewish flavor. Still, because they are located within Israel, they tend to attract a plurality or a majority of Jewish students.

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem (HUJI) offers an International Masters in Public Health, the Glocal MA Program in Community Development Studies as well as offering relevant training at many of its other programs. Tel Aviv University (TAU) offers an MA program in Disaster Prevention and Management, an International MA program in Migration Studies, and the Manna Center Program in Food Safety and Security. TAU also collaborates with Ben Gurion University and the Open University in offering an International Program in African Studies. Two programs — the Bachelors in Emergency Medicine at Ben Gurion University in the Negev and the Haifa University Program of Emergency and Disaster — train students to provide emergency relief. Sapir College offers a BA in International Social Work, And Rupin Academic Center offers an MA in Immigration and Social Integration.

SID Israel and some of the organizations described in this book offer non-academic training to prepare Israeli practitioners for work in the field. MASHAV and its affiliate training centers offer courses in Israel geared mainly to visitors from developing countries, allowing them to learn from Israel’s own experience in rapid development. The Israeli Social Model offers a unique twist by training what it calls “social scalers” to adapt, replicate, and implement successful Israeli social models in the international arena.

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Education is not only about professional training. It’s about raising awareness, consciousness, and sensitivity, and can start at any age. Several Jewish organizations around the world are working to introduce these ideas and concepts into their own communities through formal and informal educational programming. Tzdek in the UK, Stand Up in Australia, SID Israel, and Ve’Ahavta in Canada have all made this a major focus of their work. For example, Tzdek’s twinning project with British Jewish day schools is educating the next generation of Jews (and their parents) to engage with this issue. In addition to these, nearly all Jewish volunteer sending agencies have developed some form of curriculum about global awareness from a Jewish perspective for their own participants.

On1Foot (www.on1foot.org) is an open-source library of English-language materials about global justice from a Jewish perspective. The site was established by AJWS along with its partners (Mazon, Keshet, Hillel, Jews United for Justice, the Big Green Jewish Website, Areyouout, Jewcology, Repair the World, Uri L’tzedek, Jewish Women’s Archive, Tzdek, Hazon, and the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism). Uri L’Tzedek also publishes similar materials aimed at adults of varying ages, especially young adults.

If you’re looking for global citizenship education without a particular Jewish twist, Oxfam’s global citizenship guides are a highly adaptable resource that can be used in a variety of classroom settings. (http://www.oxfam.org.uk/education/global-citizenship/global-citizenship-guides)
EXPANDING THE FRONTIER

Global humanitarian work is gaining momentum throughout the Jewish community, but it is still relatively uncommon. Engaging in the fields engaging in the fields associated with global Jewish service holds benefits for practitioners, volunteers, funders, and recipients alike. Here are the top reasons we’re so keen on enhancing Jewish involvement in this field:

It’s the right thing to do
More than a billion people live in extreme poverty without access to healthcare, electricity, safe water, and other critical services. Whether you call it tikkun olam, global citizenship, or humanitarian consciousness, we have a moral imperative to help if we can.

It makes us better people
Global humanitarian work broadens our horizons, makes us more culturally aware, and connects us to the world around us. It presents an opportunity to learn new skills and apply our talents in a unique and life-changing way. There is arguably nothing more rewarding and inspirational than witnessing our own capacity to make lasting change in the lives of others.

It unites us as a people
Jews from around the world are finding meaningful ways of connecting with this field. Their work is an authentic and sincere expression of universal Jewish values. It transcends age and profession and inspires religious and secular Jews alike. We can think of no single field that is better positioned to enthuse and unite Jews from all walks of life.

Funding
Donor scarcity is a significant impediment to expanding Jewish involvement in the field. Jewish organizations expressed major difficulty raising funds on behalf of their programs. Most organizations are small and rely exclusively on Jewish philanthropists, many of whom do not currently contribute to these fields. Of the programs featured in this book, more than a third reported an annual budget of less than $100,000 for overseas operations and more than half reported a budget of $250,000 or less.

Quality Field Partners
Finding and vetting high-quality local partners is a major challenge for organizations, Jewish and non-Jewish alike. Jewish organizations within Israel have expressed interest in tapping into networks that might help overcome these difficulties.

Long-term Commitments
Many organizations have trouble recruiting skilled and unskilled volunteers willing to commit to long-term programs. While short-term missions were relatively easy to fill, longer missions of at least a year presented far more of a challenge – even if subsidies were available. Organizations also complained of a high level of staff burn-out which is fairly typical for the field.

Trained Staff
Some organizations have difficulty finding staff with the requisite skill sets. This appears to be a bigger challenge for Israeli organizations, where the pool of potential applicants is smaller.

Preserving Enthusiasm
Participants in cross-border programs return home energized to continue their involvement. But for most, the enthusiasm peters away. Several organizations are exploring ways of preserving the initial post-experience vigor through alumni programming but weren’t quite satisfied with their results. All were looking for ways to keep alumni actively involved in global humanitarian work for years to come.
We have collected and compiled information about more than 40 Jewish and Israeli organizations active in international development and humanitarian relief today. In reading these profiles, you will immediately be struck by the wide spectrum of organizations involved in this field. Although few in number, these organizations are different in many ways. Some have been in existence since the 19th century; others have been around for less than two years. Some have a staff of more than one hundred personnel; others have no paid staff at all. For some, cross-border work is their core mandate. For others, it is a small percentage of their work.

Yet, despite these differences, the organizations are united in one significant way: they are all working to bring lasting change to vulnerable foreign populations, irrespective of religion, nation, or creed. Each in its own way, these organizations are working to end suffering for the world’s most vulnerable populations. The wide variety of projects and programs in this list speaks volumes about the diversity of opportunities for engaging with the field. No matter what it is you’re looking for, there’s something in here for you.

**OUR METHODOLOGY**

This book is not a comprehensive list of all Jewish organizations working in the field of international development and humanitarian relief. In preparing the digest, we contacted all projects known to us and collated information about all who responded in one book. The information provided, including descriptions of projects and staff, is their own. We have not endeavored to verify or clarify and have instead let the organizations speak for themselves. There has been no screening or vetting, and we invite all readers to make their own inquiries.

To give the reader a sense of the scope of each organization’s activities, we asked each one to indicate the number of paid staff directly involved in overseas projects per year (“overseas staff size”) as well as the annual number of volunteers involved in overseas programming (“annual overseas volunteers”) and location of projects. We also asked organizations to indicate the range of their budget for overseas programming within four possible ranges. In light of the fact that most organizations have extremely modest budgets, the ranges provided were “Under $100,000,” “$100,001-$250,000,” “$250,001-$500,000,” and “Over $500,000.” Needless to say, there is a great range within this upper category.

Due to space constraints, we have provided only basic information about each organization listed. We encourage you to visit the websites of each organization for more information about their programs and for opportunities to engage in their work as a volunteer, professional, philanthropist, ally, and supporter.
The African Hebrew Development Agency (AHDA: aka Israelite Development Agency) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization with offices in Israel, Ghana, and Kenya. AHDA specializes in providing technical assistance, training, and consultancy in essential areas of human development and capacity building such as preventive health, organic agriculture, borehole drilling, rural development, environmental maintenance, water resource management, and natural food production. Our objective is to provide training and information such that recipients gain immediate control of essentials of life, thereby facilitating their full participation in the economic and social development of their communities, regardless of race, religion, gender, or political affiliation.

The mission of the Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village is to enable orphaned and vulnerable youth to realize their maximum potential by providing them with a safe and secure living environment, health care, education, and necessary life skills. Education and service are used to model and create socially responsible citizens in Rwanda and around the world.

Established: 1998
Location of projects: Kenya and Ghana
Annual overseas budget: $100,000-$250,000
Estimated Beneficiaries: 500 per year
Overseas staff size: 12
URL: www.ahda-israel.org

Established: 2008
Location of projects: Rwanda
Annual overseas volunteers: 100
Annual overseas budget: Over $500,000
Overseas staff size: 146
URL: www.asyv.org

Director: Danielle S. Burenstein
Education/Children | Health/Psychosocial/Medical Assistance | Environment/Conservation | Economic Development/Vocational Training | Agriculture/Farming

Director: Prince Immanuel Ben-Yehuda
Education/Children | Health/Psychosocial/Medical Assistance | Community Development | Building/Construction/Infrastructure | Environment/Conservation | Economic Development/Vocational Training | Agriculture/Farming

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AGAHozo-SHALoM YOUTH ViLLAGE

African Hebrew Development Agency

Global Citizens Changing the World
AJEEC-NISPED
AJEEC-NISPED (NISPED, Machon HaNegev), the Arab-Jewish Centre for Equality, Empowerment, and Cooperation-Neguev Institute for Strategies of Peace and Development, is dedicated to strengthening active citizenship through education and economic development. Internationally, the organization provides training in a range of community empowerment models, including women’s empowerment, leadership development, cooperatives, early childhood education, social enterprises and non-traditional business models, desert agriculture, and health. A range of specialist staff and consultants carry out training both in Israel and across the globe for up to one month at a time, providing ongoing as well as one-off training courses in cooperation with in-country partners.

Established: 1998
Annual overseas budget: Under $100,000
Location of projects: Throughout East Africa and Asia
Overseas staff size: 6
Director: Ariel Dlouhy, Kher Albaz
URL: ajee-nisped.org.il
ajeecnisped.org.il

Amar Majuli
Amar Majuli is a unique collective community development venture, created by young Israeli development professionals and members of the local community of Majuli Island, Assam, India - aimed at creating tools, opportunities, and inspiration needed for them to achieve a better future. Amar Majuli works with over 220 households from 20 flood and erosion-affected villages. Through a unique empowerment process, which draws on the assets of both the local community in Majuli and their Israeli counterparts, the organization works in four thematic areas: women’s empowerment, sustainable agriculture, youth leadership, and flood-relief.

Since its creation, Amar Majuli works on a voluntary basis, fueled by a special bond between the local people and the development volunteers. Today the organization has expanded into an international network linking dedicated Israelis, the islanders, and the wider international community united by a common vision for the development of leadership and sustainable social involvement.

Established: 2013
Annual overseas volunteers: 6
Location of projects: India
Overseas staff size: 4
Director: Gili Navon

AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE
The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC or the Joint) is the world’s leading Jewish humanitarian assistance organization. Since 1914, JDC has exemplified that all Jews are responsible for one another and for improving the well-being of vulnerable people around the world.

Today, JDC is active in more than 70 countries. JDC’s humanitarian efforts emphasize aid/disaster response and international/human development programs. Over the years, JDC has forged meaningful relationships with exceptional partners to create innovative solutions to dire needs, maximize sustainable impact, and enhance local organizational capacity.

Through JDC Entwine, a one-of-a-kind movement for young Jewish leaders, influencers, and advocates, nearly 500 volunteers each year are making an impact on global challenges, confronting real-world dilemmas, testing personal boundaries, and developing a recharged Jewish identity with service at its core. Entwine’s service continuum is tailored to meet the unique stages of life and interests of groups and individuals, including short, mid, and long-term options.

Established: 1914
Annual overseas budget: Over $500,000
Location of projects: Ethiopia, India, Rwanda, Philippines, Biobion Herzegovina, Russia, Ukraine, Morocco, Tunisia, Hungary, Japan, Haiti, Turkey, Argentina, Indonesia, Ghana
Estimated Beneficiaries: 220 households
Director: Alan Gill
Sarah Eisenmann (Director of Entwine)
URL: jdc.org
jdcentwine.org

AMERICAN JEWISH WORLD SERVICE
American Jewish World Service (AJWS) is an international organization motivated by Jewish values and committed to realizing human rights and ending poverty for marginalized people in the developing world. AJWS funds over 500 grass roots groups and their strategic allies in 19 countries to work on civil and political rights, natural resource rights, and sexual health and reproductive rights, and AJWS responds to global disasters in countries where it has connections to be able to make a difference.

In the United States, AJWS works with different parts of the Jewish community (individuals, clergy, congregations, seminaries, Hillels, national organizations, federations, key opinion leaders) and with other allies to educate about and influence American policy, law, budget, and practice so that it is more beneficial to marginalized people in the developing world. AJWS seeks to bring responsibility for advocacy for justice into a more central place in the 21st century Jewish community.

Established: 1985
Annual overseas volunteers: 80-100
Annual overseas budget: Over $500,000
Location of projects: Senegal, Liberia, Cote d’Ivoire, Kenya, Uganda, Chad, Sudan, IRC, Cambodia, India, Sri Lanka, Burma, Thailand, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Mexico
Director: Ruth Messinger
URL: ajws.org

Global Citizens Changing the World
olamtogether.org
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ARAVA CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Arava Center for Sustainable Development (ACSD) is a partnership between research and academic institutions located in the Southern Arava region of Israel: the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies (AIES), the Dead Sea and Arava Science Center (DSASC), and the Southern Arava Agricultural Research & Development Station (Arava R&D). These institutions conduct research in water resources management, sustainable agriculture, renewable energy, and natural resource management with an emphasis on arid land ecosystems. Together, they possess knowledge and expertise to help developing communities manage natural resources to alleviate suffering caused by the scarcity and degradation of natural resources.

ACSD disseminates expertise by collaborating with local and international partners and utilizing AIES’s experience in environmental education, and regional and international affiliations to build capacity in communities through hands-on training and on-the-ground interventions. Main projects are a training farm for sustainable agriculture in Turkana, Kenya, and a home biogas project in Jordan, Israel, and the West Bank.

Established: 2010

Annual overseas volunteers: 5-8

Location of projects: Kenya, Jordan

Estimated Beneficiaries: 1050

Overseas staff size: 6

URL: arava.org/arava-research-centers/arava-center-for-sustainable-development

BRIT OLAM INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERING AND DEVELOPMENT

Brit Olam is a non-profit, non-sectarian, non-political, humanitarian organization founded in Israel in 2005 by a group of Israelis who believe that Israeli society should act in light of the Jewish imperative of Tikvun Olam. Brit Olam is based on the belief that volunteerism and an active civil society are a necessary condition for a just, harmonious, and morally sensitive society in Israel. In light of this, Brit Olam promotes the participation of volunteers from Israel and from other Jewish communities in international humanitarian activities, and develops sustainable community and regional projects to developing countries. These programs strive to promote tolerance and cultural open-mindedness, and to disseminate Israeli expertise in the domains of education, arts and leadership, health, agriculture, water management alternative energy systems, assistance for refugees, and disaster relief. Brit Olam’s activities are conducted in partnership with local development organizations, business organizations and international development agencies.

Established: 2005

Annual overseas volunteers: 80

Location of projects: Uganda, Kenya, India, Philippines, Jordan (Relief), Many countries worldwide

Estimated Beneficiaries: Hundreds of thousands

Board Chair: Dr. Mike Naftali

URL: britolam.org

B’TZEDEK

Our mission: to help people committed to progressive social change develop their leadership capacity, through immersion and other programs in Israel and elsewhere, so they can effectively tackle complex local and global social problems, grounded in their values and vision, with clarity, empathy, ambition, resilience, and power.

B’Tzedek has implemented programs in Hyderabad, India for young Israelis and Jews from around the world. Well over a hundred participants have engaged in tailor-made internships or direct-service volunteering. Programs are for 3-5 months, and cover a range of issues, including women’s empowerment, children’s rights, sustainability, and human rights. We work closely with exceptional local partners. B’Tzedek has worked with agencies in Jordan, and now also in the Philippines.

Established: 2006

Annual overseas volunteers: 12-80

Location of projects: India, Jordan, Philippines

Estimated Beneficiaries: Hundreds of thousands

Overseas staff size: 5

URL: btzedek.org.il

LIFEprogram.org

CADENA AC

We are the humanitarian aid organization of the Jewish Community of Mexico. Our organization is based in Mexico City, but we work all around the country whenever there is an emergency or disaster. CADENA (Comité de Ayuda a Desastres y Emergencias Nacionales) staff and volunteers have also travelled abroad when big disasters strike.


Our international missions are always different. Depending on the disaster, we bring our rescue team and equipment, aid relief, or water filters.

Established: 2005

Annual overseas volunteers: 16

Location of projects: Mexico, Philippines, Guatemala, Haiti

Annual overseas budget: Under $100,000

Estimated Beneficiaries: 325,000

Director: Daniela Blank

Overseas staff size: 2

URL: cadena.org.mx

Education/Children | Health/Psycho-Social Services/ Medical Assistance | Community Development | Emergency/Relief/Search & Rescue | Building/ Construction/Infrastructure | Economic Development/ Vocational Training | Agriculture/Farming | Arts

Global Citizens Changing the World
CHOOSE LIFE

Choose-Life (Israeli Travelers Volunteer in India) embeds Israeli travelers and backpackers in registered Indian NGOs and educational institutions in the real India. They volunteer in public health, community development, environmental sanitation, agriculture, women’s empowerment, and education for the visually and hearing impaired. Sites include an agricultural school, a regional hospital, rural well baby clinics, a school for visually impaired and deaf, and an advocacy project in industrial medicine. Volunteers become ambassadors of Israel to the real India through their work in capacity building with Indian host mentors. Students with well-defined projects can receive academic credit.

Senior Indians and Israelis jointly oversee the volunteers. We use SKYPE to carefully match volunteers with safe, secure, and sanitary venues. By early 2015, Choose Life placed some 25 volunteers (including families and a team of deaf teachers) in 6 venues for periods of weeks to months. They are making a difference.

Established: 2012
Location of projects: India
Estimated Beneficiaries: 25 volunteers and their sites
Overseas staff size: 2
URL: choose-life.org.il

COMMUNITY STRESS PREVENTION CENTER

The Community Stress Prevention Center (CSPC, aka Mashabim CSPC) was established in 1980 in Kiryat Shmona Israel. Our aims are to prepare the civilian population to cope with crisis and disaster and to train local authorities, professionals, and non-professionals to handle these situations effectively - before, during, and after. Over the years, we have provided 860,000 hours of training & 358,000 hours of direct treatment to children and adults, and trained over 300 local authorities and thousands of welfare, psycho-social, and health services in Israel and abroad. Prof. Mooli Lahad medical psychologist, founder and president of CSPC, authored and co-authored 35 books on resilience stress PTSD and coping. He is the recipient of 6 distinguished awards for his work.

Internationally, we have worked in countries throughout Europe and Asia and the US. Our post-disaster work worldwide focuses on the medium- to long-term. We train local professionals & non-professionals in our culturally-sensitive models and methods. We use local volunteers and at times recruit professional volunteers in Israel to train abroad.

Established: 1980
Location of projects: Bangladesh, Cyprus, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Japan, Philippines, Poland, Russia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Turkey, UK, Ukraine, US (NY & Mississipp), Yugoslavia
Overseas staff size: 3-5

EDEN - PROMOTING SOCIAL JUSTICE TO NEEDY COMMUNITIES IN ISRAEL AND ABROAD

Eden Aid implements aid and assistance projects to vulnerable populations as an expression of the responsibility of society to all citizens: the obligation of the affluent to the poor; the healthy to the infirm, the strong to the weak.

Our work enables us to fulfill our responsibility as Jews and as human beings to help make the world better during our lives. This work embodies the Jewish precept of "Tikun Olam" (repair the world).

In order to realize its goals, Eden Aid works to encourage and promote community activities in the area of health, education, agriculture, and social life.

Established: 2010
Location of projects: Ethiopia
Annual overseas volunteers: 5-7
Director: Adi Ramot
URL: edenaid.org

ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS – ISRAEL

Engineers Without Borders (EWB-Israel) Israel strives to improve the quality of life for disadvantaged and under-served communities around the world through the implementation of sustainable development projects, while developing internationally responsible students. Our growing membership includes students, staff, and off-campus professional collaborators. EWB-Israel is managed by volunteers, allowing all donations to go directly to equipment, materials, travel, scholarships, and the supplies required for the completion of each project. Technologies applied are simple, relatively inexpensive, and simple to operate and maintain. Cooperation with communities is a long-term commitment in order to ensure the success of the projects over time. The organization currently has chapters in the Technion, Tel Aviv University, The Rechovot Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Environment, and the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. The group is currently involved in projects in Israel as well as in Nepal, Ethiopia, and Tanzania with about 100 volunteers working on various projects.

Established: 2008
Location of projects: Nepal, Ethiopia, Tanzania
Annual overseas budget: Under $100,000
Annual overseas budget: $100,000-$250,000
Director: Eyal Kaplan
URL: ewb.org.il

Under $100,000
Paid Staff: 0

Global Citizens Changing the World

Under $100,000
Paid Staff: 0

Global Citizens Changing the World
Farmers of the Future
Farmers of the Future addresses the chronic poverty faced by subsistence farmers in Niger. The challenges they face are well-known: poor quality soil, limited use of fertilizer, reliance on rain-fed agriculture, and shrinking plot size due to rapid population growth. The result: meager and diminishing yields with barely enough to feed their families.

Through an innovative program, Farmers of the Future introduces new ways to think about agriculture, approaching farming as a business, not just a means of survival. The program combines small-scale irrigation with high-value crops to significantly increase yields and revenue. The goal is “Economic Security,” not just “Food Security.” These concepts are taught simultaneously to two generations -- adults and children -- to speed the transformation. If successful and broadly adopted, Farmers of the Future has the potential to help tens of millions throughout the African Sahel escape extreme poverty.

Farmers of the Future is the brainchild of Professor Dov Pasternak, a world-renowned agricultural scientist from Israel. The project is the culmination of his 40+ years of work in dryland agriculture.

- **Established:** 2013
- **Overseas staff size:** 5
- **Location of projects:** Niger
- **URL:** pencilsforkids.com/our-projects/programs/farmers-of-the-future
- **Estimated Beneficiaries:** Hundreds
- **Annual overseas volunteers:** 120

Fighters for Life
Fighters for Life (Lohamim lelo gvulot) was founded in 2013 by three IDF officers who served together in an elite unit for eight years and then embarked on their post-army trip together - a trip most IDF soldiers go on after completing their military service. On Rosh Hashana, the three stayed at a “Beit Chabad” on the Ko Samui island in Thailand, along with more than 1500 other Israelis. They were astounded by the tremendous number of Israelis traveling to such poor countries, and this is when the idea was born: to capitalize on this precious resource of post-army travelers in order to make the world a better place. To do acts of “tikkun olam” and at the same time, show the world the true face of IDF soldiers.

Every decade, around 400,000 Israelis travel to developing countries as part of their post-army trip. Fighters for Life intends to leverage this, and turn Israel into a charity superpower with the help of the thousands of Israelis who travel to Third World countries. Our first branch in Mumbai opened with great success and our next branch in South America is on its way.

Each delegation comprises dozens of Israelis who take time out during their trip to these countries to volunteer together for two weeks in orphanages, providing English lessons, personal hygiene instruction, art, renovation of the orphanage, and more.

- **Established:** 2013
- **Annual overseas budget:** Under $100,000
- **Location of projects:** India, Argentina
- **Director:** Mr. Gili Cohen
- **Estimated Beneficiaries:** 800-1000
- **Annual overseas volunteers:** 120

Foundation for Mental Health Research in Israel and in Ghana
As Israeli doctors - Ori is a psychiatrist and Britta a pediatric surgeon - we have been working in West Africa for the last 20 years, solely in remote villages in the rain forests where specialist care is boldly absent.

That is why we established a professional mobile clinic in each of our professions in 2007 using as our base a well-organized Catholic missionary hospital. Practically speaking, we operated the clinic by ourselves for 4 years with 11 health posts and then handed it over to a local team. Since 2011, the clinic has been run by locals with our close supervision and advice.

In 2014, we began building a new pediatric surgery unit and a psychiatry unit in a new teaching hospital near Kumasi named Hopechange. This time again the units will be established with local teams for the locals with our close supervision and teaching.

- **Established:** 2007
- **Location of projects:** Ghana/ Ashanti Region
- **Annual overseas budget:** Under $100,000
- **Director:** Dr. Ori Shwarzman, Dr. Britta Budde-Schwartzman
- **Estimated Beneficiaries:** 5,000 patients every year
- **Overseas staff size:** 2
- **Annual overseas volunteers:** 80
- **URL:** fit.org.il

Gabriel Project Mumbai
Gabriel Project Mumbai (GPM) cares for vulnerable children living in the slums of India by providing hunger relief, literacy support, hygiene education, and other humanitarian relief that help promote children’s health and well-being. GPM’s Jewish international participants come to India and work with local volunteers and partner NGOs to help break the cycle of poverty and hunger by volunteering in food distribution and literacy programs among the children of the Mumbai slums.

Each year, forty international volunteers and six staff members work in GPM’s nutrition program and provide daily informal education classes to 1000 children ages 4-14 attending school in the slums. GPM also engages with women’s empowerment groups in the slums, supporting women’s business and financial development to create a win-win model for social change in the slums of Mumbai. GPM has a strong connection with the Jewish community in India and has many wonderful partners in India and around the world who collaborate in this vital mission.

- **Established:** 2012
- **Location of projects:** India
- **Annual overseas budget:** $100,000-$250,000
- **Annual overseas volunteers:** 40
- **Estimated Beneficiaries:** 1000 children, 140 women
- **Director:** Jacob Sztokman
- **Overseas staff size:** 6
- **Estimated overseas volunteers:** 40
- **Annual overseas budget:** $100,000-$250,000
- **URL:** gabrielprojectmumbai.org

- **Education/Children | Health/Psycho-Social/Medical Assistance | Community Development | Nutrition & Hygiene**
GLOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STUDIES, THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

Glocal Community Development Studies is an innovative, interdisciplinary Master’s program which translates academic research into practical understanding conducive to working with communities and development organizations across the globe. Glocal’s mission is to advance professionalization in the field of international development through joining academia and practical work with communities toward the creation of holistic and creative solutions to the chronic problems faced by the world’s marginalized populations. In addition to being international and multidisciplinary, the program’s unique approach of bringing together theory and practice includes one semester of field experience in the developing world or Israel. With the staff of six employees and some 25 students in each cohort, the program reaches dozens of communities and organizations annually around the developing world.

Established: 2010
Location of projects: Student internships in Africa (mostly Eastern Africa, South East Asia and Latin America)
Overseas staff size: 6

**HIAS**

HIAS (formerly the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society) stands for a world in which refugees find welcome, safety, and freedom. HIAS rescues people whose lives are in danger for being who they are.

HIAS has more than 600 staff working in more than 10 countries, protecting the most vulnerable refugees, helping them build new lives, and reuniting them with their families in safety and freedom. We advocate for the protection of refugees and assure that displaced people are treated with the dignity they deserve.

Guided by our Jewish values and history, we bring more than 130 years of expertise to our work with refugees.

**Established:** 1881
**Location of projects:** Kenya, Uganda, Chad, Ukraine, Israel, Argentina, Ecuador, Panama, Venezuela, Austria
**Annual overseas volunteers:** 0-5
**Annual overseas budget:** Over $500,000
**Director:** Mark Hetfield
**URL:** HIAS.org

**Vocational Training**

**Building/Construction/Infrastructure**

**Education/Children**

**Community Development**

**Economic Development/Vocational Training**

Hillel International

Hillel’s Alternative Breaks are short term service-learning trips for Jewish university students, most often during Spring Break. Since 2004, over 16,000 students from campuses across North America have participated in alternative breaks in over 40 countries. Trips are organized by local Hillels - often with the assistance of Hillel International, Repair the World, or organizations that offer planned Alternative Breaks. Grounded in Jewish values of tikkun olam (repairing the world), tzedek (righteousness), and gemilut chasadim (acts of loving kindness), Alternative Breaks provide students with an immersive experience that empowers them to think intelligently about service, advocacy, education, and social justice while bringing meaningful social change.

Participants promote social change by volunteering with local non-profit organizations. Jewish learning and exploration is a central component of the experience, enabling the students to deepen their own understanding of social responsibility as a Jew. Students return to campus with a renewed sense of their Jewish identity and their role in tikkun olam, repairing the world. Past Alternative Breaks have included: Rio de Janeiro, New Orleans, Argentina, Nicaragua, India, Morocco, and Rwanda.

**Established:** 1994
**Location of projects:** India
**Annual Overseas Volunteers:** 375
**Estimated Beneficiaries:** 390,000 in 2014
**Director:** Mark Hetfield
**URL:** hillel.org/jewish/social-justice-tzedek

**Education/Children**

**Community Development**

**Building/Construction/Infrastructure**

IFTIP - ISRAELI FRIENDS OF THE TIBETAN PEOPLE

IFTIP’s mission is to assist the exiled Tibetan people, and to raise public awareness in Israel of the story of Tibet. The organization’s activities are thoroughly coordinated with the Tibetan Government in Exile thus fulfilling the needs of the community.

**Established:** 1994
**Location of projects:** India
**Annual overseas volunteers:** 1-10
**Annual overseas budget:** Under $100,000
**Director:** Meira Aboulafia
**URL:** tibet.org.il

**Education/Children**

**Community Development**

**Medical Assistance**

**Cultural Preservation**

**Agriculture/Farming**
**ISRAEL AID MISSION**

Israel Aid Mission (IAM) rapidly deploys medical personnel, search/rescue teams, shelter, and nutritional support to natural disasters and war zones in Israel and around the world. IAM is staffed by over 200 volunteers from 10 different countries who come from a broad spectrum of professions and skills. IAM rescue teams use planes, 4X4’s, helicopters, and boats to reach victims in remote locations. Each team contains doctors who perform mobile field surgeries, engineers who construct housing and repair damaged infrastructure, logistical specialists who distribute food and water to the masses, and communications personnel who liaise with governmental agencies in the field. In collaboration with the Israel Police Service, the IAM also provides true first response at fallen missile sites, arriving up to five minutes faster than local paramedic services.

IAM serves as an emissary for the State of Israel by correcting world injustice and embodying the Jewish value of Tikkun Olam.

**Established:** 2010

**Location of projects:**
- Haiti, the Philippines

**Estimated Beneficiaries:**
- 30,000 victims to date

**Annual overseas budget:**
- Under $100,000

**Director:** Davey Smith

**URL:** IsraelAidMission.org

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**ISRAEL FLYING AID**

Israel Flying Aid (IFA) is a non-profit, volunteer-based, non-governmental organization (NGO) that delivers life-saving aid to communities affected by natural disasters and human conflict. IFA operates in places where local regimes prevent entry from formal international humanitarian organizations; focuses on countries that lack diplomatic relations with Israel; and transcends differences, prejudices, race, nationality, religion, and creed.

IFA team members represent the pulsating heart of Israel and believe in the sanctity of human life and dignity as reflected in the Jewish “halacha” and in the Israeli Declaration of Independence.

**Estimated Beneficiaries:**
- Hundreds of thousands

**Director:** Gal Lusky

**URL:** ifaid.com

**Established:**
- 2005

**Location of projects:**
- Sri Lanka, Georgia, Chechnya, Pakistan, India, Indonesia, Burma, Haiti

**Annual overseas budget:**
- Under $100,000

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**ISRAEL TRAUMA COALITION FOR RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS**

Israel Trauma Coalition for Response and Preparedness (ITC) is a non-profit partnership specializing in psychological trauma and preparedness. We are strengthening individuals and communities to cope better with crisis. Working with Home Front Command and key government ministries, local municipalities, NGOs, and the private sector, ITC upgrades quality and promotes sustainability of the nation’s emergency and trauma care.

Israel’s long experience preparing for and coping with crisis makes Israeli trauma experts amongst the most knowledgeable on the global map. When disaster strikes, ITC shifts into high gear to bring this vital resource to the international scene. Relying on local resources and innovative Israeli strategies, ITC builds the capacity of local care providers from improved immediate trauma response to resilience and rehabilitation. Arriving with insight and expertise, ITC and its partners leave behind a more robust civilian resilience network.

To date ITC has worked in Sri Lanka, Beslan, Mississippi, Chechnya, Haiti, Japan, Boston, Toulouse, and the Philippines.

**Established:**
- 2002

**Location of projects:**
- Sri Lanka, Russia, Haiti, Japan, France and the Philippines

**Annual overseas budget:**
- $250,000-$500,000

**Director:** Talia Levanon

**Overseas staff size:**
- 3

**URL:** israeltraumacoalition.org

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**Education/Children | Health/Psycho-Social/Medical Assistance | Community Development | Building/Construction Infrastructure | Economic Development/Vocational Training | Environment/Conservation | Agriculture/Farming | Solar Energy Service**
JEWISH HEALTHCARE INTERNATIONAL/PROJECT VISION

Founded in 1999 by Stephen Kutner, M.D. Jewish Healthcare International/Project Vision (JHI/PV) focused on ten years on combating the ailments of diaspora and Israeli health care professionals to enhance the professional quality and delivery of health care services. Most projects were in the former Soviet Union (FSU). Teams of doctors provided lectures and ran clinics for and with the local healthcare professionals. Over that period of time more than a remarkable 20,000 individuals attended these lectures. Although our entanglement with the local population was shepherded through Jewish organizations our services were provided in a nonsectarian manner.

In response to the earthquake in Haiti, JHI/PV sent a team of US doctors within six weeks to volunteer at hospitals afloat while providing quality and inexpensive dental care to a nonsectarian population.

A dental “Center for Excellence” was established through our efforts at Bikur Holim Hospital in Riga, Latvia. This clinic provided an entity that helped keep the hospital afloat while providing quality and inexpensive dental care to a nonsectarian population.

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JHIF

JUSTIFI

JUSTIFI is a new social activism program connecting Jewish students and young professionals who want to make a difference to circumstances, people, and places where they can. JUSTIFI takes you to far away places - into communities plagued by terrible problems but blessed with amazing organizations and people. We work in Thailand, Nicaragua, South Africa, and Peru and are adding new locations each year. Our focus is human trafficking, poverty, and education. We currently take 150 students per year on our 10 day trips to meet NGOs making a difference and to work on sustainable projects with them.

Established: 2009
Location of projects: Thailand, Nicaragua, South Africa, Peru
Overseas staff size: 5
Annual overseas volunteers: 150
Annual overseas budget: Under $100,000
Director: Jamie Cowland
URL: justifi.org

MAGEN DAVID ADOM IN ISRAEL

Magen David Adom (MDA) is a National Public Organization, acting according to the Magen David Adom Law, legislated by the Knesset at 1950.

MDA is a non-governmental organization. Its duties are: the Israeli National Emergency Medical System & Blood Services and the Israeli National Red Cross Society.

Its professional human resources combine 1,850 employees and 12,000 volunteers, MDA is Israel’s largest non-governmental volunteering organization.

Providing its services to the entire spectrum of Israeli society, Jewish and non-Jewish alike, from 126 stations, 1,000 lifesaving vehicles, 3,200 first responders in the communities, 180 ambulance teams in rural communities. 25% of the annual budget comes from donations, all invested in the development of the services.

In addition to our local missions, MDA is actively involved in humanitarian missions all over the world, assisting people after natural disasters and wars, and sharing our professional expertise by providing training and assisting in modernizing the systems in less developed countries.

Established: 1920
Location of projects: Sri Lanka, India, Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines, Haiti, Kenya, Ukraine
Annual overseas volunteers: Over $500,000
Director: Eli Bin
URL: mdais.com

Overseas staff size: 10
Annual overseas budget: Under $100,000
Beneficiaries: Hundreds of thousands

MIFALOT EDUCATION & SOCIETY ENTERPRISES

Mifalot – Education and Society Enterprises (Goal to Education LTD), is the largest and most diverse organization in the Middle East that uses sports as a platform for social change. We reach out to over 30,000 beneficiaries annually in Israel, the Palestinian authorities, and Jordan. Following Mifalot’s growth over the years, we’ve come to understand that our know-how is worth sharing world-wide.

Throughout the years we’ve partnered up with a wide variety of local organizations and [social] entrepreneurs in 12 countries. Together with our local partners we define the local issues and design the socio-educational sports programs accordingly. We subsequently send 3 coaches to visit our partner for two weeks to coach local trainers on how to link sports to “real-life issues” and into a practical platform for social change. Our partnership doesn’t end with a one-time visit as we continuously monitor and support partners’ progress throughout a three year program.

Established: 1997
Location of projects: Jordan, Rwanda, Cameroon, Haiti, India, Nigeria, the Philippines, Benin and Ghana
Annual overseas volunteers: 2-3
Annual overseas budget: $100,000-$250,000
Director: Dr. Meir Orenstein
URL: mifalot.com

Overseas staff size: 10
Beneficiaries: 10,000

Education/Children | Health/Psycho-Social/Medical Assistance | Community Development | Economic Development/Vocational Training | Sports

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PHILNOR FOUNDATION’S DREAM DOCTORS PROJECT

Philnor Foundation’s Dream Doctors Project’s medical clowns are an integral part of the medical team in this unique therapeutic medical clowning model, improving patient care so that patients can receive the medical treatment they need with the least tension, anxiety, and pain possible. Dream Doctors operate over 110 medical clowns in 29 medical centers across Israel. Doctors and nurses see medical clowns as a necessary addition to the medical team. In many cases, medical research shows that the presence of a medical clown can reduce the need for sedation treatments and reduce the trauma, stress, and fear children experience before, during, and after medical procedures and hospitalizations.

Applying techniques from their work at hospitals, Dream Doctors have developed a unique approach for trauma care, and they join the Israeli relief teams to disaster areas such as those in Haiti, Thailand, and Indonesia. Dream Doctors also provide workshops to the local communities of developing countries overseas.

Established: 2002
Annual overseas volunteers: 8-12
Annual overseas budget: Under $100,000
Estimated Beneficiaries: 600,000
Overseas staff size: 8
URL: dreamdoctors.org.il

PROJECT TEN – GLOBAL TIKKUN OLAM

Project TEN is a Jewish Agency service-learning program with a focus on Tikkan Olam and sustainability, through connecting Jews from Israel and around the world. Participants – young Jewish adults – volunteer, study and travel together while sharing communal housing in countries such as Ethiopia, Mexico, Israel, and Ghana. Tracks vary from 4 weeks to 5 months, and costs are heavily subsidized.

TEN invests in four major fields: youth education, working with special needs, healthcare, agriculture; while co-existence is also included in the Israeli centers. Projects are adapted to each center’s unique needs and resources, and are developed in partnership with local, Israeli, and international organizations that specialize in the above fields. TEN offers a rich curriculum, which is based on Jewish values and texts, and enhances participants’ connection to their Jewish identity, creates opportunities for networking within the group and between alumni, and encourages continued volunteer work in their home communities.

Established: 2013
Annual overseas volunteers: 250
Annual overseas budget: Over $500,000
Location of projects: 48 different countries
Estimated Beneficiaries: Thousands
Overseas staff size: 10
Director: Mr. Yarden Zornberg
URL: tenprogram.org

SAVE A CHILD’S HEART

Save a Child’s Heart (SACH) is an international organization with special consultative status from the United Nations department of Economic and Social Affairs, based in Israel at the Wolfson Medical Center for improving the quality of pediatric cardiac care for children worldwide suffering from heart disease. SACH promotes goodwill by improving the health and welfare of all children, regardless of nationality, race, religion, color, gender, or financial situation.

SACH provides lifesaving heart surgeries and follow-up care, while simultaneously creating centers of medical competence in developing countries enabling local physicians to treat patients from their own communities independently. Dozens of SACH medical personnel lead medical missions to partner countries for screening, operating and training in cooperation with its partners for furthering local expertise. SACH treated 3,500 children from 48 developing countries, examined thousands in 64 clinics abroad and over 180 children were treated during 15 teaching missions resulting in the onsite training of hundreds of medical personnel worldwide.

Established: 1998
Annual overseas volunteers: 100
Annual overseas budget: Over $500,000
Location of projects: 48 different countries
Estimated Beneficiaries: Thousands
Overseas staff size: 20
Director: Simon Fisher
URL: saveachildsheart.org

Education/Children | Health/Psycho-Social/Medical Assistance | Community Development | Building/Construction/Infrastructure | Environment/Conservation | Agriculture/Farming | Youth/Women Empowerment

TEN invests in four major fields: youth education, working with special needs, healthcare, agriculture; while co-existence is also included in the Israeli centers. Projects are adapted to each center’s unique needs and resources, and are developed in partnership with local, Israeli, and international organizations that specialize in the above fields. TEN offers a rich curriculum, which is based on Jewish values and texts, and enhances participants’ connection to their Jewish identity, creates opportunities for networking within the group and between alumni, and encourages continued volunteer work in their home communities.

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TAG INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Tag International Development in a registered not-for-profit in the UK and the USA dedicated to sharing Israeli expertise with developing countries. Tag has delivered 25 projects in 12 countries. Our current focus areas are woman and child health, livelihood development, and youth empowerment. Our current geographic focus is South Asia and East Africa. Our current two main projects are beekeeping in Myanmar and water for girls’ empowerment in Kenya. Leveraging Israel’s unique expertise presents Israel as a force for good in the world and helps to build vital bridges between communities and organizations. Tag is also developing an extensive research project into what Israel can most offer the developing world. Tag has a strong grasp of Jewish knowledge of Africa within Israeli academia and society at large. In line with the vision of our founder, Tamar Golan, we believe that this goal should be reached through a wide variety of programs and initiatives both within the University community and beyond. The Centre is dedicated to fostering research and study of Africa among students and faculty; we also strive to increase awareness of political, social, and economic issues facing the continent today. We encourage students to gain a full and nuanced understanding of the complex mosaics of countries, societies and cultures that constitute Africa. Ultimately, we hope that this knowledge becomes the basis for students’ active participation in building mutually beneficial ties with this vast and extraordinary continent.

TAMAR GOLAN AFRICA CENTRE, BEN-GURION UNIVERSITY

The Tamar Golan Africa Centre is an academic institute in Ben-Gurion University in the Negev. The Centre was established in 2009 with the goal of deepening knowledge of Africa within Israeli academia and society at large. In line with the vision of our founder, Tamar Golan, we believe that this goal should be reached through a wide variety of programs and initiatives both within the University community and beyond. The Centre is dedicated to fostering research and study of Africa among students and faculty, we also strive to increase awareness of political, social, and economic issues facing the continent today. We encourage students to gain a full and nuanced understanding of the complex mosaics of countries, societies and cultures that constitute Africa. Ultimately, we hope that this knowledge becomes the basis for students’ active participation in building mutually beneficial ties with this vast and extraordinary continent.

Established: 2010
Annual overseas volunteers: 25
Location of projects: Myanmar (Burma), Kenya, Indonesia, Israel
Estimated Beneficiaries: 100,000
Overseas staff size: 40
URL: tagdevelopment.org

TEVEL b’TZEDEK

Tevel b’Tzedek (Tevel), an Israeli NGO active since 2007, has an innovative and proven model for integrating Israeli/Jewish volunteers in long-term, cutting-edge development work in impoverished communities in the developing world.


What makes us different? We are both a development organization doing large-scale, long-term intervention with impoverished communities AND an educational organization teaching and mobilizing Jewish volunteers in the developing world. We utilize Israeli and Jewish know-how and human resources to improve the capacity and general well-being of people in impoverished rural villages and make the village a feasible life-choice for them.

Established: 2007
Annual overseas volunteers: 150-170
Location of projects: Nepal, Burundi
Estimated Beneficiaries: 15,000
Overseas staff size: 1
URL: asiafrica.org

TZEDEK

Our vision is of the Jewish community actively involved in the reduction of poverty. We achieve this through educating the UK Jewish community using a uniquely Jewish lens, helping them to act to reduce poverty overseas. Leading by example, we invest in projects that increase the sustainable income of some of the poorest people in the world.

Our funding work in Ghana and India is complimented by our internships for eight weeks during the summer. A group of 10 young Jews from the UK work in local organizations and build the capacity of these organizations to deliver vital services to local people. We carefully match volunteers to local organizations where their skills and enthusiasm can make a tangible difference. We make sure each individual has full training and support.

Volunteers live and learn together, giving them an invaluable insight into the day-to-day challenges facing the developing world.

Volunteers return with career-boosting skills and a commitment to tackling the injustices of poverty within their own networks and beyond.

Established: 1990
Annual overseas volunteers: 10
Location of projects: India, Ghana
Estimated Beneficiaries: 1,500 through grants, 40,000 through educational improvement
Overseas staff size: 65
URL: tzedek.org.uk

Annual overseas budget: £250,000–£500,000

Education/Children | Community Development | Economic Development/Vocational Training | Agriculture/Farming

I am happy to be considered a Friend of Tag since it harnessed innovative technology to serve communities of all faiths in poorer countries.

- Syed Kamall MEP

URL: tzedek.org.uk

The hope for the future rests in the courage and creativity of adolescence, as a period of time and adolescents as individuals.

- Brainstorm: The Power and Purpose of the Teenage Brain, by Dan Siegel, M.D
ZAKA

Who are the men in yellow vests? And why do they spend hours sifting through the devastation?

These are the men of ZAKA, 1,500 volunteers and paramedics spread around Israel, on call 24/7, to respond immediately to any terror attack or mass tragedy in Israel and overseas. Founded in 1995, ZAKA today is Israel’s dominant non-governmental rescue and recovery organization. Often the first to arrive on the scene, ZAKA volunteers work to save lives, where possible. Always the last to leave, they honor the dead by collecting all human remains to ensure a full Jewish burial for the victims. Recognized by the United Nations as an international humanitarian volunteer organization, ZAKA assists at natural disasters and terror attacks around the word, from Haiti to the tsunami, from Mumbai to Mombasa.

Established: 1989

Location of projects: Mexico, Belarus, Hong Kong, Russia, France, Belgium

Estimated Beneficiaries: 30,000 per year

Overseas staff size: 1

Annual overseas volunteers: 400

Annual overseas budget: Over $500,000

Director: Mr. Yehuda Meshi-Zahav

URL: ZAKA.org.il

OLAM is a collaborative venture and shared platform to promote global Jewish service—volunteering and service learning, international development, and social justice advocacy—in order to serve the world’s most vulnerable communities. Our purpose is to champion, coordinate, educate, and signpost for the benefit of the existing fields and the volunteers, professionals, and organizations engaged in this work.

Through OLAM, we aim to:

- Expand the global Jewish community’s awareness and philanthropic support of these fields;
- Build and strengthen practitioner networks to facilitate sharing knowledge and best practices; and
- Grow the number of volunteers and practitioners and direct them to Jewish opportunities for involvement around the globe.

PLEASE BE IN TOUCH: GET INVOLVED

If you are not already engaged in the field, we hope this publication will be a springboard to help you explore opportunities to become involved in global Jewish service and to connect with the organizations listed in this book. As this is our inaugural publication, we welcome all of your feedback on what worked, what did not work, and what you want to see more of in the future. OLAM is a project in the making, so help us shape it. Be in touch with Executive Director Dyonna Ginsburg at dyonna@olamtogether.org to share your ideas, feedback, critiques, and suggestions. Together, we can help take Jewish involvement in global humanitarian work to a new level.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This publication and initiative would not have been possible without the encouragement, assistance, and feedback of David Brand and Herb Tobin from the Alliance for Global Good; Shoshana Boyd Gelfand and Sandy Cardin, Lisa Eisen, David Gappell, and Roben Smolar from the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation; Leonard Kaplan and the Alliance for Global Good; and Trevor Pears and Pears Foundation.

Photography in this book provided courtesy of: Amar Majuli, Choose Life, Fighters for Life, UYouMe

ENDNOTES

1 Scholars often date the “birth” of the field of international development to the post-WWII Marshall Plan, though they are typically viewing these efforts from the lens of country-to-country assistance. If we take a broader perspective and include voluntary and religious agencies, the field is far older.

2 These are modest estimates. Some organizations began engaging in cross-border assistance within the past ten years but were counted as older because they were established as organizations more than a decade ago. In addition, some younger organizations did not respond to our survey and were not included in these statistics.

3 Based on an informal polling conducted by the author in preparation of this book.

4 Official Development Assistance (often called ODA) is a term coined by OECD-DAC – the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to measure aid given by governments with the purpose of improving socio-economic well-being in developing countries. The term covers both direct bi-lateral assistance and contributions by national governments to multilateral institutions.

5 See ‘The Index of Global Philanthropy and Remittances 2013’, Washington, DC, USA: The Center for Global Prosperity at the Hudson Institute

6 See ‘Private Funding for Humanitarian Assistance’, August 2013, Global Humanitarian Assistance programme, Development Initiatives

7 Recent research estimates that 57% of NGO funding in humanitarian aid comes from private donations. For comparison’s sake, about 56% of ODA funding has come from private donors and about 28% of Red Cross Movement funding comes from private contributions in the same years. Source: ‘Private Funding, An Emerging Trend in Humanitarian Donorship’, 2012 Global Humanitarian Assistance, Development Initiatives